

FACT SHEET

AMENDMENTS TO RULE FOR TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS FROM PETROLEUM REFINERIES

ACTION

- On February 1, 2005 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued amendments to the rule that reduces emissions of toxic air pollutants from catalytic cracking units, catalytic reforming units, and sulfur recovery units at petroleum refineries. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.
- The amendments will revise the specific parts of the process units subject to the rule, add new compliance options, clarify testing and monitoring requirements, and add a new alternative test method. The amendments will also defer technical requirements for certain types of monitoring systems and make editorial corrections.
- EPA issued the amendments as a direct final rule, along with a parallel proposal. If EPA receives a significant adverse comment, that portion of the amendments for which the adverse comment was made will be withdrawn, and EPA will address the comment in a final rule based on the parallel proposal. If EPA receives no significant adverse comment, the amendments will become effective 90 days after publication in the Federal Register.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS

- The petroleum refineries subject to today's amendments are already required to reduce emissions of toxic air emissions. The direct final rule amendments will not result in further reductions in emissions.
- No costs are associated with the direct final rule amendments. The new compliance options may avoid increased costs and energy requirements for certain types of equipment.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more of the listed 188 toxic air pollutants.
- The EPA published the final rule for catalytic cracking units, catalytic reforming units, and sulfur recovery units on April 11, 2002. Facilities subject to the requirements of this rule must be in compliance by April 11, 2005.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy the direct final rule amendments, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg> under newly proposed or issued rules.
- For further information about the final rule, contact Mr. Bob Lucas of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-0884 or lucas.bob@epa.gov.
- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is:
<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.